GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2622
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2002
CHILD IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME
PATY RIPPLE KYNDIAH

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of children in the country had still not been vaccinated against life-threatening infections;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore alongwith the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the time by which entire country is likely to be covered under the immunization programme?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (c) Under the Universal Immunization Programme, being implemented by the Government of India through the States/U.Ts., vaccination is provided to children throughout the country for control of serious but preventable diseases namely childhood tuberculosis, diptheria, pertussis, poliomyelitis, measles and neo-natal tetanus. As per WHO/UNICEF evaluation, the percentage of fully-immunized children in the country against these six diseases in 2000-01 was 53.6%. The reasons for relatively low national (evaluated) coverage is the low level of performance in the States like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand (less than 25%).The coverage in these States has remained low due to inadequacy of public health infrastructure and delivery systems as also weaknesses in supervision and vacancies at crucial levels.
These States have been provided with additional funds for
(i) recruiting auxillary nurse midwife (ANMs) and district immunization officers
(ii) meeting training needs, and
(iii) improving the reach, quality and monitoring of routine immunization.

Due to success of Intensified Pulse Polio Programme, the country is by and large free from polio virus circulation except U.P., Bihar and West Bengal.